

# MEMO

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**DATE:** January 5, 2006  
**TO:** CEHD Committee  
**FROM:** Brian Wallace, Associate Regional Planner, Community Development  
**SUBJECT:** Compass Integration Into Intergovernmental Review Process

**SUMMARY:**

An overview of changes to Intergovernmental Review program since January 2005. Intergovernmental Review (IGR) is an authority granted to agencies under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The IGR function was transferred to Community Development division from Environmental division in January 2005.

Since January 2005, staff has reviewed the program to learn SCAG's legal requirements and opportunities for structuring its comments on documents that we receive. A summary of recent improvements and modifications will be presented and is included in this packet. Staff will also present ideas for continued integration of the Compass Growth Vision and 2% Strategy into our review process, as well as ideas for more consistent updates and/or actions to this committee.

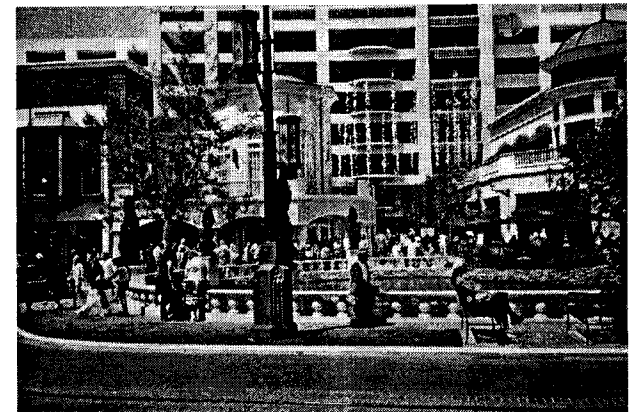
# Intergovernmental Review – IGR – Compass Integration Progress Report

Presented to Directors Meeting  
20 December 2005  
By Brian Wallace

# IGR Compass Integration Background

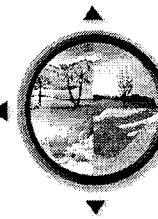


- SCAG is Statewide Clearinghouse for CEQA documents – has authority to comment on any and all EIR process documents
- IGR - performs consistency review of regionally significant local plans, projects, and programs
- Thresholds for regionally significant projects:
  - 500 residential units
  - 500,000 sf of commercial
  - 250,000 sf of office
  - 650,000 sf of industrial
  - Large-scale public infrastructure (freeways, air & water ports, sewage/water, etc)
  - General and some Specific Plans
- Utilize RTP, RCPG, Compass GV for consistency review
- No approval authority – SCAG's review limited to regional consistency



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# IGR Compass Integration Benchmarks & Phase 1 Improvements



Southern California  
► **COMPASS 2% STRATEGY**  
*Shared Values, Shared Future*

Number of documents received in last 3 years has fluctuated:

<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u> (through Nov)
727	880	780
101 significant	144 significant	131 significant
21 General Plans	30 General Plans	xxx General Plans

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## As of December 2005:

Letters cite Compass Growth Vision as one of three major regional plans used to review projects and plans

Able to highlight project or plan's apparent use of Compass principles

Bi-weekly Clearinghouse Report on SCAG website

Offer SCAG's participation and support in integrating Compass with project or plan

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# IGR Compass Integration

## Phase 2: 2006



- CEQA grants SCAG leeway to offer relevant critique and evaluation based on its areas of expertise: comments to provide a policy position – SCAG's interpretation of whether project/plan is consistent with our plans
- 2% Strategy criteria provide additional opportunity to comment on additional projects/plans:
  - “Top 50” Cities in 2% areas: 2 or more criteria
  - Cities due for General Plan Updates
- Tap staff knowledge and expertise in a multi-disciplinary team:
  - Community Development: Land use, growth forecasting
  - Environmental: Air/water quality
  - Transportation: Roads, rails, ports
- Provide relevant guidance on ALL projects/plans in 2% areas (including non-significant projects)
- Notify elected representatives and CoG/subregional coordinators
- Explore improved mapping function to better monitor regional development for Growth Forecast

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# IGR Compass Integration CEHD Updates: 2006



- Standing, monthly report to CEHD on IGR progress, projects
- Will ask committee to take action on policy position on some significant projects
- Provide information on projects implementing Compass
- Invite guest presentations on projects of interest to committee
- Other ideas or requests?

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